

# The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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## THE COMING CONFERENCE.

Before another issue of the EVANGELIST, delegates will be coming in to attend the conference. There is no reason why this year's conference should not be as well attended as any previous one, and in fact there are good reasons why the attendance should be larger than that of any other we have ever held. Why? In the first place the church has been growing in numbers and the same basis of representation will give us a larger attendance. Then again your interest in the cause should be greater now than before, and your confidence in the work of National Conference, stronger than ever. Go back to the Warsaw Conference of 1892. We were almost strangers to each other, and our faith in the success of any measure or plan that might be put on foot, was so weak that we feared to make any new venture. Very timidly we went about the work, not knowing where to begin nor what to do. There were many things we knew *ought* to be done, but how to do them was the puzzling question. Everything seemed to be an experiment with us.

When in 1893 we met again and heard the reports of our work, the result was a very agreeable surprise, confidence was strengthened and we entered upon the work with renewed zeal and energy. Time has proven the wisdom of almost every action of our National Conference, and with the experience of the past, we will meet on September 3, 1895, with larger faith and fuller confidence in our ability to transact successful business for the Master. Will you be present, brother? Will you, sister? We would have you know that between you and the National Conference there exists a close relation, that you owe *duties* to this body that can be discharged only by your presence, and from which you can be excused only on the ground that you *cannot* be present. To the ministers of the Brethren church, we say, it is your duty to be here; you are *needed* here; you should make every possible effort to get here. Times are stringent it is true, but they are improving,

growing brighter, and if necessary, economize in other matters, but remember that money spent in coming to conference will be well spent. To the congregations of the Brethren church, we say, send delegates to the conference. If those elect cannot afford to pay their own expenses, help them. It is much easier for *twenty-five* to meet the expense than for one alone. There is important work awaiting the action of the coming conference—it is the work of the church of which you are a part. *Come and help.* To have a successful conference, the first essential is to have an attendance.

## AN EXPLANATION.

Some of our people seem to think that the National Executive Committee has slighted the *King's Children* and *Sister's Societies* in not giving them sufficient time and space on the program. It will be remembered that we favor giving the largest liberty to these societies, in fact we believe they should have all the time necessary for the planning of their work and the transaction of such business as will help them to accomplish the important work they have undertaken. But we feel it is our duty to free the committee from the charge of partiality. The truth is, the committee has allowed the same time for the work of these societies as for the discussion of any other branch of church work. Nor has the committee *separated* their's from other work. King's Children and Sister's work is as verily made a part of the *business* of the coming Conference, as the Book and Tract work, the Sunday school literature or the BRETHREN EVANGELIST. Let us look at the program. The principal work outlined is as follows:

1. Report on Hymnal.
2. " " General Statistics.
3. " " National Mission Board.
4. Ashland University.
5. Report of S. S. C. E.
6. " " B. B. and Tract Com.
7. Book and Tract Work.
8. King's Children.
9. Report of Ministerial Association.

It will be seen from the above that all the different branches or departments of church work, have equal representation on the program, and *each* is considered as part of the business of the Conference. In this the committee has performed its duty without partiality. If when Conference meets, it sees proper to give a whole day or two days to King's Children Work and the same time to the S. S. C. E., that

is its privilege; and when we contemplate the importance of this work, we believe that *not less than one whole day* should be given to each Society, rather more than less. But on the other hand, let us remember that Ashland University and the Publishing interests are equally important, and are deserving of as much time and attention, as any other of the church's business. We trust all delegates and others will come to Ashland prepared to remain a whole week.

## ASHLAND UNIVERSITY.

The fall term of Ashland College opens September 10. National Conference begins September 3, just one week before. Here is a double advantage. Students who wish, can, with but very little extra expense, attend the conference and get the inspiration which such a meeting usually brings with it. The theological students especially, will appreciate this privilege afforded them. Again, should the conference continue over Sabbath, many of our brethren and sisters will have an opportunity to be present at the opening of the school.

The above announcement gives us an opportunity to remind you of your duty and relation to Ashland University. This is *your* school. It is *the one* and only school of the Brethren church. Every member of our beloved brotherhood sustains a very close relation to this institution; for of all the enterprises of the church, none are more vitally connected with its future progress and success than *our school*. It should be remembered in the first place that the *efficiency* of our future ministry will depend, in a very large degree, upon the success of Ashland University, and every one knows that upon the *efficiency* of the ministry, depends our success as a church. Here lies our only hope. The growing demand for a stronger, more intellectual, as well as more spiritual ministry, compels us to *educate*, and if we would hold our ground we *must educate* in our *OWN SCHOOL*—a school conducted by and for the Brethren church, a school surrounded with influences that tell for the *doctrine* of our church. The experience of other churches should teach us an important lesson along this line. They have long since learned what is necessary for them to do, if they would go forward and not backward. In this age of enlightenment and growing intelligence, an uneducated ministry can no longer succeed. It is true, we have made progress,